

Redstone Presbytery - Interim Executive Presbyter Report
Submitted by Lon Weaver
September 23, 2025 (Time Period: May 26 – September 11)

Opening Comments

- “In a way, I try to control what I do, but at the same time I like to dance with whatever rhythm life proposes to me.” Gustavo Santaolalla
- My Home Church
- “Creators and Collaborators” vs. “Loners and Competitors”
- Districts and Common Interests
- Synod’s “Fit for the Future” Grants

Preacher

- Colver (5/11)
- North Huntington, New Hope (6/8)
- Johnstown, Westmont (6/15)
- Mt. Pleasant, Reunion (6/22)
- Trafford, Level Green (7/27)
- Johnstown, 1st (8/3)
- Trinity P.C., New Florence (8/17)
- New Salem (9/7)
- Avonmore (9/21)

Musician

- Ford City, Appleby Manor – Pianist (5/4)
- New Alexandria United P.C. – Pianist (5/18)
- Greensburg 1st P .C. – Organist (8/10 & 8/24)
- Trinity P.C., New Florence - Pianist (8/17)

Presbytery Gatherings & Meetings

- Patrick Ewing Commission – Provided the Charge to the Minister (5/4)
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM) (5/6)
- Presbytery Meetings Design Committee (5/7)
- My Concern re: presbytery: determining “the when and what” – that is, the timing and content – of tasks/presentations – (a) to me, the May meeting was fantastic and inspiring in various substantive ways, with a good sense of timing; (b) to me, at the March meeting, I tried – in the message for worship – to facilitate too much discussion for a weeknight event, and exhausted folks in their abilities to take in the rest of it.
- PNC Orientation (w/ Molly Hall – Uniontown, Trinity – 5/13)
- PNC Follow-Up (Irwin, 1st P.C. – 5/15)
- Pre-Presbytery Mtg. with Stated Clerk, Moderator, and [Zoom] Vice Moderator (5/21)
- Presbytery at Lower Burrell’s Puckety P.C. (5/27)

Presbytery Gatherings & Meetings (cont.)

- Pastor Departure Mtg with New Florence, Trinity (6/4)
- Racial Justice and Reconciliation Group (6/11)
- Mission Committee (6/12)
- Healing Prayer Group (6/12)
- Conversation with Johnstown, Westmont Session (6/15)
- Moderated Newlonsburg Session (6/17)
- Budget and Finance Committee (6/18)
- Presbytery Council (6/24)
- Reviewed the Call Process with two Sessions: Johnstown, 1st (7/16) and Belle Vernon (7/24)
- Three meetings with present and past COM Chairs regarding churches in transition (7/29 & 7/31)
- Joined Bookkeeper Bobbie Shafor for a meeting with a 1st Commonwealth Bank to change the Redstone Presbytery check signatures (8/13).
- Attended Budget and Finance Committee meetings (8/13 & 8/20).
- Attended Matthew 25 Team via Zoom (8/13).
- Moderated Johnstown Westmont Session (8/13).
- Joined Stated Clerk Cliff Foster and COM Chair Martin Ankrum in meeting with Board of Pensions representative Emily Chudy on 2026 updates of the BoP (8/14).
- Attended Mission Network (8/14).
- Attended Healing Prayer group (8/14).
- Attended Special Session meeting of Greensburg Westminster P. C. where Pastor Frayer-Griggs announced her call to the Open Door congregation in Pittsburgh and requested the Session to call a congregational meeting to dissolve her pastoral relationship to the Westminster congregation (8/18).
- Attended Nominating Committee (8/19).
- Joined Len Morgan in the annual evaluation of Stated Clerk Rev. Cli\$ Foster (8/19).
- Joined Jack Battenhouse in the annual evaluation of Administrative Operations Manager Karen Gray (8/20).
- Deliberated with Susan Keaney, Cliff Foster, Len Morgan re: nominees for the Mission Study Committee (8/26)
- Attended the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (9/2)
- Anniversaries (9/7): attended Ebensburg's 175th and sent a letter of congratulations from the Presbytery on the occasion of Murrysville 195st
- Met with Vice-Moderator Owar Ojulu and Interim Stated Clerk Cliff Foster for presbytery meeting planning.

Engagement with Denominational Entities

- Breakfast w/ Pittsburgh Presbytery's General Minister Jessica McClure Archer (5/12)
- Online issue threads posted by various Executive Presbyters (several/month)
- 90-days of Companionship (now semimonthly- Steve Cureton, retired EP) concluded
- Synod-Sponsored Coaching began (**normally** monthly – to begin 5/21 & 5/28) – with Youngsook Charlene Kang (a former UMC District Superintendent) – she's amazing.
- Lunch with Pension Board Representative – Emily Chudy (5/29)

Engagement with Denominational Entities (*cont.*)

- Online Middle Level Administration issue threads (two during this period): one was in response to my question regarding the ways presbyteries were covering the hole in our ability to respond to emergency assistance to CRE's in presbyteries (mid-July)
- Synod-Sponsored Coaching continued – following vacations, etc. – with Youngsook Charlene Kang, a former UMC District Superintendent (8/7 & 9/9).
- Participated in the Synod of the Trinity Executive Presbyter Forum in Bedford (9/3-4)
- Attended Mid Council Leader Orientation in Louisville (9/16-18)

Participation in Ecumenical & Interfaith Meetings

- Christian Associates – “Retreat” at the Orthodox Monastery of the Transfiguration, Ellwood City (5/14)
- Collaborated with Christian Associates Exec. Director Rev. Liddy Barlow regarding faith-based investments with the goal of recommending specific limits on investments by the organization (8/21).
- Met with David Ackerman of the U.C.C. and members of presbytery to discuss a collaborative ministry (9/22)

Conversations and Pastoral Care

- Corporate Annual Report – June 30, 2025 Deadline (J. Dickson 5/6 and 6/3)
- Conversations with Church communities facing some Pastor/Member friction/hostility (Church A – 5/6; Church B – 5/21; Church C – 5/21; Church D – 5/19 & 6/3)
- Summer “Read,” *Pilgrim Band: Our Shared Quest for Meaning and Purpose* by Thomas Bandy – a core concept is “mutual mentoring”: (a) 5/13 & 5/28 – meetings with Laura B and Molly H; (b) 5/19 – Zoom meeting with Thomas Bandy; & (c) the kick-off is via Zoom with Bandy moderating a discussion on Wed., June 18th at 6:30 PM.
- Skip Noftzger (multiple times)
- Pastors (1 Honorably Retired **and** a handful of clergy with health issues in their orbit)
- Presbytery Officers (2)
- Four -plus conversations with lay leaders of churches in transition (late May through late July)
- Zoom meeting with Thomas Bandy regarding his opening presentation for presbytery's reading of his latest book, *Pilgrim Band* (6/6)
- Meeting with Synod Executive Forrest Claassen regarding leadership and current projects (6/13)
- Pastoral visits with church leaders (commissioned and ordained): seven – one with Bill Wiegand the day before his bone marrow transplant (6/23) and a second with Ben Nti as he concluded his upcoming departure from Johnstown, Westmont (7/14).
- Conversation with a lay leader who has received a position elsewhere and is, thus, departing the presbytery (8/1)
- Conversations with members of a church community facing continuing friction/ hostility (3 members)
- Pastoral visits with church leaders (commissioned and ordained): six (8/18, 8/19, 8/21, 8/26 [2], 9/2).

Various Tasks/Interactions/Events

- Two Dissolutions:
 - Johnstown, 1st Church – Hyimot Teshone’s departure on 6/30:
 - New Florence, Trinity – Sara Sadler’s departure on 5/31:
- Church-owned housing
- Mentoring of new pastors in the presbytery, *especially*, newly ordained/commissioned pastors
- The timing of departure of installed or commissioned pastors
- Corporate Annual Reports for churches (see the material below).

CORPORATE ANNUAL REPORT FILING DEADLINE The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania now requires that each corporation including not for profit corporations, file an annual report via its corporations’ portal: Business Services | An Official Pennsylvania Government Website. The corporation must have an account to complete the registration. If possible, use a church email address instead of an individual’s personal email address to create an account. The deadline for filing is June 30th each year and failure to file in a timely manner may result in the loss of a congregation’s corporate status including the right to use its name. If you are experiencing difficulty, the most detailed instructions for this process with a list of FAQs may be found here: Annual Reports | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

There also is brief guide here: annual-reports-one-pager and at the bottom of the page there is a website and a phone number for further questions.

- Publishing has been a part of my vocation since 1997. The latest fruit of that is an article of mine that was recently published: “Intersectionality and Estrangement: The Situation of Women in Afghanistan and the Thought of Paul Tillich,” in the *Bulletin of the North American Paul Tillich Society*, LI, #1 (Spring 2025), pp. 6-22. I will become the editor of the *Bulletin* in September.
- Moving belongings from Duluth, MN to Greensburg, PA (431 Center Ave., Greensburg, PA 15601 (7/21-7/23)
- One Dissolution: Johnstown, Westmont – Bernard Nti (8/31)
- Editing and constructing staff evaluations
- Seeking out the policy for emergency assistance to ordained pastors as the basis for a policy for emergency assistance to commissioned pastoral leaders.
- Boundary and Ethics Training:
 - I attended the Boundary and Ethics Training on 8/9 at Laboratory Presbyterian Church in Washington Presbytery.
 - We seem to have to remind some folks in the presbytery the importance of this path. The reasons are these:
 - The problems in church and society related to faithful boundaries; and
 - The importance of offering the message, “This is a place that is safe for all!”
- Wrote and submitted questions to author Thomas Bandy for him to responses based on his book, *Pilgrim Band: Our Shared Quest for Meaning and Purpose*. Once he completes his video response to these questions, presbytery will post the video on its *Youtube* account, making it available to all who can link to the presbytery’s website.